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12 May 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: T. BIDNYK, Ukrainian Emigre Arrested by French as KGB Agent

The following information on BIDNYK was received by the AECASSOWARIES from AEDOGMA, who circulates widely in Ukrainian emigre circles.

1. T. BIDNYK, approximately 55 years old, was recruited by the RIS in 1956. His mission was to infiltrate the OURF (Organization of Ukrainian Workers in France). He was instructed to get close to Zch/OUN/B people in Munich, particularly those who frequently travelled to Paris.

2. BIDNYK was soon in touch with leaders of the OURF and the Zch/OUN, including individuals such as Ivan Popovych, Mykola Frys and Boris Vitoshynsky. Whenever Munich Zch/OUN people visited France, BIDNYK would make their hotel reservations and escort them around Paris.

3. In 1958, Andriy SOKOLYK arrived in Paris as Chief of the Zch/OUN/B/SB for France. SOKOLYK lived with Semen GRZOVSKY, a close friend of BIDNYK, who visited in his home rather frequently. BIDNYK and SOKOLYK soon became friends. Shortly thereafter BIDNYK was made Deputy Chief of the Zch/OUN/B/SB for France.

4. BIDNYK and SOKOLYK went to the Vienna youth festival together, where they were quite active in contacting Soviet citizens. During a visit to Munich, enroute to Vienna, BIDNYK met LENKAVSKY, KASHUBA, STETS'KO and other Zch/OUN people.

5. In 1960, SOKOLYK returned to the United States and BIDNYK became Chief of the SB for France. All of BIDNYK's reports to KASHUBA were shown to BIDNYK's RIS contact, who made copies of them. Boris VITOSHYNISKY frequently helped BIDNYK to write his reports for KASHUBA.

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6. The RIS instructed BIDNYK to brief and debrief travellers to the Soviet Union. Copies of his debriefing reports were made available to his RIS contact before they were forwarded to Munich. BIDNYK was kept informed about prospective travellers to the Soviet Union by his RIS contact. As the SB representative in France for the Zch/OUN, BIDNYK was considered very efficient, particularly with respect to the information on the Ukrainian SSR he gathered as a result of his debriefings of travellers.

7. Whenever any Zch/OUN people planned to visit Paris, KASHUBA informed BIDNYK, who would handle all their reservations and meet them at the airport or railroad station. BIDNYK in turn kept the RIS informed about the expected visitors and the RIS surveilled all the arrivals. The source assumes all hotel rooms reserved for Zch/OUN visitors in Paris by BIDNYK were bugged. Acting on instructions from the RIS, BIDNYK purchased a car and got his driver's license. He used the car to drive Zch/OUN people around Paris and was thus able to keep well informed on their movements and activities.

8. Another of BIDNYK's assignments was to visit the summer camps of the SUM (Ukrainian youth camps) throughout Europe, and to collect details on administrative individuals involved and on the young men and women of Ukrainian birth who were European citizens. There was special interest in those serving in the French armed forces, employed in industries manufacturing items for the military, and in those planning to go into the foreign service.

9. Special markings on benches in the Place de Tern (phonetic) were used as meeting signals by BIDNYK and his RIS contact. According to a "French CI source", BIDNYK performed his job exceptionally well. The French reportedly were surprised that a man of his limited education could be so successful in his mission for the RIS. He was paid about 600 francs a month, plus all expenses.

10. BIDNYK was instructed to aggravate the conflict between Popovich and the Zch/OUN people in the OURF. As a result, the Zch/OUN people in the OURF left the group and organized a splinter faction, the OUF (Organization of Ukrainians in France.)

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11. The French CI surveilled BIDNYK for three years prior to his arrest. He first noticed that he was being watched in August 1966, but he did not report it to his RIS contact until December 1966. The RIS immediately broke off contact with him, and told him to look for further instructions at the Place de Tern. He found instructions there on 7 January of this year telling him to meet his RIS contact the following day in one of the coffee houses in the Latin Quarters. It was at this meeting that he was told that the Zch/OUN planned to liquidate him in the very near future, and he was advised to return to the Ukraine immediately and to take his 19 year old son, Vasyl', with him. He was given money and various airline schedules and instructed to leave Paris on 10 January, to fly to Munich, and from there to West Berlin via Frankfurt. He was told that he would be contacted in Berlin at the Air France ticket office between 1730 and 1800 hours on 10 January, and from there he would be taken to East Berlin. BIDNYK talked to his son about returning to the Ukraine. Vasyl' was very indignant that his father should make such a proposal and told him he would never under any circumstances go to live in the Soviet Union. Vasyl' asked his father to report his story to the French police. BIDNYK refused but decided to postpone his departure for the Soviet Union for a while.

12. On 19 January 1967, BIDNYK received a letter written by Ivan KASHUBA and mailed in Brussels, which stated that KASHUBA would be arriving in Paris (date not mentioned by the source) and wanted to be met in one of the hotels. KASHUBA asked BIDNYK to keep the meeting a secret. BIDNYK became concerned as he thought the meeting had something to do with Zch/OUN plans to do away with him. However, he did meet KASHUBA but it is not known what they discussed. According to rumors, KASHUBA tried to persuade BIDNYK to go to Munich but the latter refused and KASHUBA returned to Munich alone.

13. On 7 February, BIDNYK was arrested by the French on Place de Tern (phonetic) near the area of benches where his RIS contact usually left messages for him in the past. (Note: AECASSOWARY sources previously reported that BIDNYK was arrested 10 February in his home in Paris. [] also confirmed arrest made on 10 February.)

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(as reported by AECASSOWARY/29)

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